GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:119
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010
SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN ARMED FORCES
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha);Tharoor Shri Shashi

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present shortage of manpower, including Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR), in the armed forces and the Coast Guard Organisation as on date, rank-wise and service-wise;

(b) the reasons for the shortage and the steps taken including the proposals, if any, to induct NCC cadets to fill up the vacancies; and

(c) the measures adopted/proposed to be adopted by the Government to encourage the youngsters to join the armed forces?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE(SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 FOR ANSWER ON 2.8.2010

There has been a shortage of officers in the Armed Forces. The shortage of officers is around 11,500 in the Army, 1507 in the Navy and 1237 in the Air Force. There is no significant shortage of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in the Armed Forces.

The shortage in the Armed Forces is partly attributable to accretions from time to time, tough selection procedures, difficult service conditions coupled with perceived high degree of risk involved in service career.

In Coast Guard there is a shortage of 679 officers and 2518 PBOR which is attributable to recent accretions and lead time required for recruitment and training.

The Government has earmarked vacancies in officer cadres of the Armed Forces for induction of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets who volunteer and meet the requisite standards through NCC (Special) Entry Scheme. In Coast Guard, preference is given to NCC certificate holders.

A number of steps have been taken to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. The tenure of SSC officers has been increased from 10 years to 14 years. A total number of 750 posts of Lt. Colonel have been upgraded to Colonel towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-I). Further, 1896 additional posts in the ranks of Colonel, Brigadier, Major General and Lieutenant General and their equivalents in the other two Services have been upgraded towards implementation of AV Singh Committee Report (Phase-II). The implementation of recommendations of the VI Central Pay Commission with substantial improvement in the pay structure of officers of Armed Forces is expected to make the Services more attractive.

The Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, motivational lectures in schools, colleges are also some of the other measures in this direction.